

PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2143**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Richard BENTLEY

Group Art Unit: 2143

Application No.: 09/977,303

Examiner: J. JEAN GILLES

Filed: October 16, 2001

Docket No.: 110878

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING A USER INTEREST PROFILE
BY MONITORING ELECTRONIC MESSAGES

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the September 27, 2007 Final Rejection and October 17, 2007 personal interview, reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Jean-Gilles in the October 17, 2007 personal interview. Applicant's record of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,654,735 (Eichstaedt). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As discussed during the personal interview, Eichstaedt fails to disclose or suggest, "monitoring e-mail messages directed to the user," as recited in claims 1 and 12. Eichstaedt only discloses monitoring the user's outbound communication streams.

The Office Action alleges that "monitoring e-mail messages directed to the user" of claim 1 is disclosed in col. 1, lines 57-67; col. 5, lines 20-40; and col. 3, lines 18-35 of Eichstaedt.

However, col. 1, lines 57-67 of Eichstaedt discloses "the system learns a user's interest by monitoring the user's outbound communication stream." Col. 5, lines 20-40 discloses "a key aspect of the techniques of the present invention is the analysis of the outbound communication stream." Col. 3, lines 18-35 discloses "they only provide the user with a mechanism to view the incoming messages and to generate new outgoing messages." The incoming message in Eichstaedt is only viewed by the user when the user composes new outgoing messages. The incoming message is not monitored by the Active E-mail System (AES) of Eichstaedt for interest profiling. Therefore, Eichstaedt only discloses monitoring the user's outbound communication streams. See also the title "Outbound Information Analysis for Generating User Interest Profiles and Improving User Productivity," and the Abstract, lines 2 and 3, "a user's interests by monitoring the user's outbound communication streams."

The Office Action further alleges that all the features of claim 12 are disclosed by Eichstaedt in col. 5, lines 19-67 and col. 6, lines 1-29.

However, col. 5, line 19-67 of Eichstaedt discloses "a key aspect of the techniques of the present invention is the analysis of the outbound communication stream," and col. 5, line 19-67 and col. 6, lines 1-29, do not disclose monitoring e-mail messages directed to a user, as recited in claim 12 of the specification.

For at least the above reason, claims 1 and 12 are patentable over Eichstaedt.

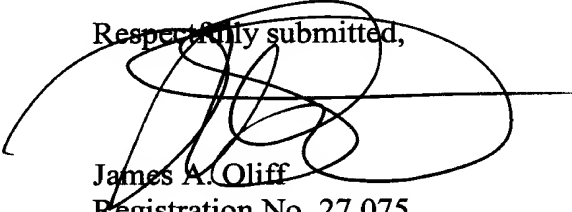
Claims 2-11, 21, 23 and 25 depend from claim 1, and claims 13-20, 22, 24 and 26 depend from claim 12. Thus, claims 2-11 and 13-26 are patentable over Eichstaedt for at least the same reason as claims 1 and 12, as well as for the additional features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: October 29, 2007

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